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## PSYCHOLOGICAL LITERATURE.

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*The Dissociation of a Personality*, by MORTON PRINCE, M. D. Longmans, Green & Co., New York, 1906.. pp. 569. \$2.80 net.

The study of abnormal personality has been enriched by the careful analysis of a truly remarkable case. The case of Miss Beauchamp is noteworthy for the treatment to which Dr. Prince subjected the unfoldment of the distorted selves, quite as much as for any spontaneous evolution of the conflicting personalities. For just as the trance-states that flourished under the belief in spiritualism were cultivated by the reception which they met, so will the attitude of the physician towards hysterical dissociation play a part in the maturing of the disintegrated phases of personality. It is through his command of suggestion thus acquired that Dr. Prince was able eventually to discover and restore the original self to a possession of a fairly consistent personality. In this respect the issue is parallel to that which Dr. Sidis was able to establish in the case of Mr. Hanna. Yet the two cases fall in different classes and present quite opposite characteristics. The case of Mr. Hanna belongs to cases of loss of personality through degradation of functions from higher to lower ranges;—what Professor James in the case of Mr. Bourne calls a shrunken, amnesic, abstract of the original self. The case of Miss Beauchamp is one of a warped growth of a personality in the making; and its features accordingly reflect the stress and strain of late adolescence. The unfoldments of the plot centre about the personal emotions, largely infused with moral judgments of *licet* and *non-licet* and with conflicts between ideals and the practical possibilities of their realization. Yet underlying all this must be a more tangible substratum of functional disorder, that induces differences of assimilation and response, of taste and disposition, and deprives each phase of the personality from more than an uncertain participation in the life of the other.

The case is in itself so noteworthy that an outline of its development will be worth reproducing.<sup>1</sup> The subject, "Miss Beauchamp," was about 23 years old when she came under Dr. Prince's care. Her girlhood presented no unusual complications and yet was such as to intensify her natural emotional susceptibilities. There were a few vagaries of action and pronounced eccentricities of character, but nothing that prevented her from being highly regarded by her friends, from whom indeed she was able to conceal the fluctuations of personality that overtook her. At the time of seeking Dr. Prince's care she was a student at college, and of her condition during the next few years, the period of her greatest instability, Dr. Prince writes: "She may change her personality from time to time, often from hour to hour, and with each change her character becomes transformed and her memories altered. In addition to the Real, Original or Normal Self, the Self that was born and which she was intended by nature to be, she may be any one of three different persons. I say three different persons because, although making use of the same body, each, nevertheless, has a distinctly different character; a difference mani-

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<sup>1</sup> This is taken in large part from the account given by the present reviewer in a volume on *The Subconscious*, now in press.

fest by different trains of thought, by different views, beliefs, ideals, and temperaments, and by different acquisitions, tastes, habits, experiences, and memories. Each varies in these respects from the other two, and from the original Miss Beauchamp. Two of these personalities have no knowledge of each other or of the third, excepting such information as may be obtained by inference or second-hand, so that in the memory of each of these two there are blanks which correspond to the time when the others are in the flesh. Of a sudden one or the other wakes up to find herself, she knows not where, and ignorant of what she has said or done the moment before. Only one of the three has knowledge of the lives of the others, and this one presents such a bizarre character, so far removed from the others in individuality, that the transformation from one of the other personalities to herself is one of the most striking and dramatic features of the case. The personalities come and go in kaleidoscopic succession, many changes often being made in the course of twenty-four hours. And so it happens that Miss Beauchamp, if I may use the name to designate several distinct people, at one moment says and does and plans and arranges something to which a short time before she most strongly objected, indulges tastes which a moment before would have been abhorrent to her ideals, and undoes or destroys what she had just laboriously planned and arranged."

Of the several variants of Miss B. the most influential took the name of Sally; this personality, in the period of its greatest dominance, may be said to embody the opposition,—the organization of forces that thwarts the supremacy of the real Miss B., and the destruction of which, as the sequel proved, was essential to the restoration of the former. The hostility of Sally to whichever personality was in command may first be illustrated. Miss B., who has an abhorrence of insects and reptiles, finds a box neatly tied, from which, as she opens it, six spiders run out. Sally is subconsciously present to witness the effect of her practical joke, and thus describes the incident: "She screamed when she opened the box, and they ran out all over the room." Special expeditions into the country were made to secure spiders and snakes and toads,—walks that were altogether too taxing for Miss B.'s strength. Sally never felt fatigue; yet naturally their common body showed the effect of such a strain. On one such occasion Sally walked to a suburban town, in which she came to herself as Miss B., utterly stranded and exhausted. To torment Miss B., Sally would unravel the worsted work upon which the former was engaged, and when she permitted its completion, "pulled the whole of it to pieces, and drawing out the yarn wound it round about the furniture, carrying it from picture to picture, back to the different articles of furniture, then round herself many times, then back to the furniture, finally hiding the ends somewhere in the bed. Then Sally, standing in the midst of this perfect tangle of yarn, wakened Miss Beauchamp, who came to herself in the maze. So great was the tangle that she had to cut the yarn to get out." Sally likewise invades the premises of Miss B.'s intentions and coerces her to tell nonsensical lies, and to act upon impulses which the latter entirely repudiates, or is compelled with much embarrassment to explain away. Likewise she chastens by imposing penance, wise or foolish, and generally inconvenient: Discovering that Miss B. has been careless in money matters, Sally takes charge of the purse and hides all the money, leaving only enough in sight for car-fare and the most penurious allowance.

The complexity of this relation was such as to make possible the masquerading of the one personality in the character of the other. The situation will be suggested by the following instance that occurred

when Miss B. was at the hospital, and a European tour was projected : Dr. Prince was suspicious, and found the following state of affairs : "It came to light that Sally had conceived the idea that, as she herself was free from ailments, if she could impersonate Miss Beauchamp she would be considered well, and so escape from the hospital and go to Europe, as had been previously planned. So, when the night nurse looked in upon her, Sally was always found 'asleep ;' the day nurse had an equally good report to make, and Miss Beauchamp was soon, in spite of my warnings, discharged 'well.' A few days after this I caught Sally just in time, on the verge of her departure for Europe, and changed her, against her will, to Miss Beauchamp, who was astounded to find herself in my office, her last recollection being her entrance into the hospital ten days previously. It was thus by a lucky chance that Sally did not go to Europe instead of Miss Beauchamp." The measure of control that Sally possesses was well illustrated in her determination at a critical juncture that Miss B. should not be awakened. "Arguments, expostulations, even threats were of no avail. She did not want to be the other one, of whom she spoke in contempt. She simply defied me to wake Miss Beauchamp, and in fact every attempt on my part was unsuccessful. Finally, we compromised ; she agreed to allow Miss Beauchamp to be awakened, and I, on my part, agreed (may the ruse be pardoned) that Sally should come again when Miss Beauchamp was *well*." We begin to appreciate why, in view of the marked differences of character which Miss B. and Sally and the personality that emerged later proved to have, Dr. Prince confesses to a temptation to call his volume, "The Saint, the Woman, and the Devil."

The secret of the situation that long remained unrevealed was disentangled by the discovery that the Miss B. who applied to Dr. Prince for relief was, after all, not the original self. This discovery came about by the sudden appearance, as a consequence of hypnotic alteration, of a strange individual who went back to an experience of some six years earlier, and who interpreted the actual situation in terms of that earlier upsetting experience. This traumatic shock, which writers upon hysteria are disposed to consider as a constant factor in the attack, was in this instance of an emotional nature and presumably occasioned the eruption that led to the serious dissociation. Naturally, this awakened self, that in turn was favored by development through suggestion, was ignorant of Miss B.'s experience during the intermediate years. And to abbreviate a story that can only be understood as well as appreciated when biographically illuminated, as Dr. Prince has so ably done, it may be said that a fusion of this older self (and the extinction of the interfering Sally) with certain phases of the later counterpart actually led to a restoration of an individual who was capable of conducting the combined affairs of the Beauchamp household under a consistent regulation.

While the curtailment of this portion of the development necessarily throws the interested student upon the resources of the original, certain further illustrations of the manner of intercourse that came to be established between the several selves may be cited for their decided psychological value. It is theoretically important to note how the one personality acts as a subconscious mentor for the other. Actions that Miss B. performs in moments of distraction will accordingly be recorded in the memory of the subconscious Sally. Sally's powers in this direction are neatly shown in the following incident related in her own words : "'She' yesterday received a letter from a photographer. 'She' had it in her hand while walking down Washington Street, and then put it into 'her' pocket (side pocket of coat) where

'She' kept 'her' watch and money (banknotes). As 'She' walked along 'She' took out the money and tore it into pieces, thinking it was the letter from the photographer. 'She' threw the money into the street as 'She' said to 'herself,' 'I wish they would not write on this bond paper.'" As further proof of Sally's knowledge, she quoted the entire letter verbatim. Sally's undisguised glee in the discomfiture that Miss B. would experience upon discovering the loss of her money, discloses the nature of her animosity. Miss B. was now awakened and acknowledged that she had received such a letter, which, however, she had torn up, but that she had in her pocket two ten-dollar notes. She put her hand in her pocket and with great surprise found only the letter. The instance is the more convincing because Miss B. also professes the faculty, allied to that of "crystal vision," by which with special effort she can penetrate into the regions removed from conscious recall and see as a projected vision what her conscious memory does not reach. By such a process she was astonished to see in the glass-globe herself walking along Washington Street, putting the letter into her pocket and tearing into fragments pieces of green paper.

Not alone were the memory spheres and the dominances of the alternating personalities quite different, but what would be a symbol of an experience to the one was wholly negated by the other,—a relation familiarly illustrated in the negative hallucinations of hypnosis and the psychic anæsthesias of hysteria. The most remarkable illustration of this contraction of the field of sensation is the following: the Miss B of this incident is the individual known as B IV,<sup>1</sup> the personality that reappeared after six years' sleep. While carelessly fingering a chain upon which some rings were strung, the chain broke and some of the rings were lost. Now the other Miss B (B I) in her uninformed relation to the incident became convinced that all the rings were gone, although Sally, who was well aware of the whole procedure, tried to persuade her otherwise. "'The other two rings are not lost,' said Sally, 'but I can't make her see them. I have put them on her finger, but she won't see them, Dr. Prince; and I have taken her hand and made her take hold of the rings, but she won't feel them. They are round her neck now on a ribbon. I have made her take the rings in her fingers while she is here and I am gone, and I have put them on her finger; but it is no use, she won't see them.'" When Dr. Prince awakened her as B I, he asked her to loosen her collar and showed her the two rings tied on a ribbon about her neck, but though he passed her fingers over them and clicked the two rings together, and held them before her eyes, she was unable to become aware of their existence. He pulled the ribbon hard enough to jerk her head to one side; though she felt the movement, she regarded the method by which it was accomplished as a mystery. This negative hallucination differs from others, that could readily be induced by suggestion only in the fact of its spontaneous origin in a prejudiced conviction. The will to see for this particular range of objects was in abeyance.

It is only natural, when Dr. Prince's treatment favored the development of the restored Miss B (B IV), that Sally, as representative of the thwarting influence, should transfer her animosities to the latter. Between the two there were endless bickerings, in which Sally was obliged to write her derogatory opinions, while B IV could communicate hers by speaking aloud. It is difficult to realize the antagonisms of this divided household. "There were times when IV and Sally would enter into systematic campaigns of hostilities, each determined

<sup>1</sup> The B IV of the narrative is the later Miss Beauchamp, while B I is the individual who applied to Dr. Prince for treatment.

to down the other. Then IV would gird on her armor, and set forth resolute, uncompromising, with blood in her eye, determined to suppress Sally for good and all. She would do her best to destroy everything that her enemy wrote—many a letter to me was destroyed—and to undo everything done. Whatever she discovered Sally was doing, she would reverse. If, for example, she found herself on the way to my house, she would turn about and retrace her steps, or at least would try to do so, for Sally, in her rôle as a subconsciousness, would at once make a dive for the muscular steering gear, there would be a temporary struggle with arms and legs, a sort of aboulia, and then it usually happened that Sally, victorious, would reverse the machinery and head her again for her destination. At night, too, Sally would have another turn. As fast as IV would get into bed, Sally, coming herself, would get up, and then, changing herself back to IV, the latter would find herself to her disgust out of bed again. And so it went on all night; and if IV got off without the bed and furniture being turned upside down she was lucky.

Dr. Prince announces a further volume, in which the more general and theoretical aspects of disturbances of personality will be set forth. The psychologist's interests are naturally centered about such an interpretation, particularly as no other field of experience is able to supply a like insight into the complications of a normal self. It is upon such interference with the normal development of an integrated individual that psychology depends to point the way to the analysis of the normal development. In this light the story of Miss Beauchamp is a peculiarly important contribution. The very detail of its record serves to include and emphasize points of theoretical interest; for such fullness of record and psychological insight into the interpretation of the phenomena presented, Dr. Prince is entitled to the hearty appreciation of the psychological student.

JOSEPH JASTROW.

*The Secret of the Totem*, by ANDREW LANG. Longmans, Green & Co., New York, 1905. pp. x., 215.

This work is one of those lightly written and acutely reasoned anthropological essays, part constructive and part controversial, of which we have now had a round half-dozen from the pen of the gifted author. In some sense, it is the sequel of *Social Origins and Primal Law*, published in 1902 by Messrs. Lang and Atkinson; but it may also lay claim to rank as a novel and independent work. It contains, for the first time fully wrought out, the writer's theory of the origin of totemism. It will, perhaps, be most useful if we here sketch the main outlines of this theory, avoiding both the controversial infusions and the question of prior right on the part of other investigators to this or that feature of the whole case.

Mr. Lang starts out, not from the communal horde, but from a social status in which men were forced by economic conditions to live in small separate groups. He assumes, further, that the members of these groups were animated by the fundamental emotions of love, hate, jealousy, maternal affection, and so forth, so that there must very soon have arisen, within the groups, distinction of persons and certain practical restraints upon amatory intercourse. He inclines to accept Darwin's hypothesis of a single, strong male living with and jealously guarding several 'wives;' from such a 'family' the sons, as they grew up, would naturally be expelled, and would thus be forced to seek their own 'wives' as best they might from other similar families. Such a society would necessarily, for the younger male members, be exogamous in practice.

However this may be, we set out from small, scattered groups of men and women. These groups now, in some way or other—in what